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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 4, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1--- Welcome news for consumers is that prices on some vegetables in the San Francisco wholesale market have been on the down-grade this past week.

Carrots, cauliflower, and dry onions are the Best Buys.

Next in line as Fairly Good Buys are cabbage, mushrooms (lower), potatoes, and spinach (considerably lower priced).

Broccoli is lower-priced and a Fair Buy, along with peppers, hard squash (Hubbard & banana), and tomatoes.

Among the still expensive but lower-priced-than-last-week items are artichokes, celery and lettuce.

Snap beans are slightly higher.

The fruit situation is practically unchanged from last week. California Newtown apples are still a Fairly Good Buy, while grapes, pears, and grapefruit are a Fair Buy.

Oranges remain expensive, with the large sizes higher and the small sizes slightly lower.

Avocados are slightly higher. And there's practically no change on lemons.

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Lighter supplies and higher prices were the features of last week's San Francisco wholesale meat market. Lamb was an exception and held unchanged in price. Pork supplies were drastically reduced because of storms and transportion difficulties to result in less than 30 percent of the usual offerings. Higher replacement costs added impetus to rising prices, with pork loins gaining $6.00 to $8.00 per hundredweight over the previous week. Fresh hams, picnics and butts advanced $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight. And lard gained another 50 cents. Prices went up $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight on steer, heifer and cow beef carcasses, and $2.00 to $4.00 on some beef cuts. The quality of veal improved somewhat, and prices advanced $2.00 per hundredweight.

Butter prices are 2 to 4 cents lower than last week in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers 4 cents lower at 69 to 71 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is quoted 2 cents lower to retailers at 67 1/2 to 69 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. The price drops are the result of continued price declines in eastern and central-western markets and larger supplies.

Egg prices have taken quite a drop since last week, as the result of an increase in production. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 51 to 52 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Mediums are quoted at 49 to 50 cents--both 4 cents per dozen lower. Grade "A" Smalls are down 7 cents to a quotation of 42 cents per dozen in cartons to retailers.

Prices are slightly higher than last week on rather liberal supplies of dressed poultry. Broilers, fryers, roasters, and Leghorn hens are all 1-cent per pound higher. Colored hens are up 1 to 2 cents per pound. Demand continues good.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 11, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8 -- There are no startling changes from last week in the situation on fruits and vegetables in the San Francisco wholesale market.

Carrots and dry onions are the week's Best Buys in vegetables, followed by potatoes and spinach as Fairly Good Buys.

Fair Buys include snap beans (lower), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, mushrooms, peppers (considering season of year), and tomatoes.

Supplies of asparagus from the Delta region are gradually becoming heavier and prices are coming down.

Items in the expensive price bracket are artichokes, celery (slightly lower), lettuce, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, and sweetpotatoes.

In the fruit division, Watsonville Newtown apples are still the Best Buy.

Tagged as Fair Buys are grapefruit, small oranges, and pears (slightly higher).

Avocados, large oranges, and lemons all remain high priced.

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Light supplies and higher prices have continued to dominate the San Francisco wholesale meat market. About a 50 percent reduction in fed steers in California the past two months has forced buyers to seek supplies in other states. This, coupled with a consistent demand for beef, has resulted in price rises of $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight on carcasses, and as much as $6.00 per hundredweight on many beef cuts. Veal supplies have been about normal, but lamb carcasses have been light in supply and heavy in weight. Offerings of Good and Choice spring lambs have been especially light. Prices are mostly $1.00 higher per hundredweight. Fresh pork supplies are running about half of normal. Except for pork loins, which have gained another $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight, prices have held unchanged from last week. Smoked hams and sliced bacon have been in little demand at unchanged prices, while refined lard has advanced another 50 cents.

Butter quotations to retailers are unchanged from a week ago in the San Francisco wholesale market. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are quoted at 69 to 71 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints; Grade B (2nd Quality) butter is quoted at 67-1/2 to 69 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Supplies are fairly liberal.

Fairly liberal supplies of eggs have also held unchanged in price from a week ago. Large Grade "A" eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 50 to 52 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Mediums at 49 to 50 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 42 cents per dozen. Trading in eggs has been fairly active under an improved demand.

Moderate supplies of dressed poultry are little changed in price from last week. Broilers are 2 cents per pound lower. Small colored fryers are down 1-cent per pound. With a few breeding hens arriving in the market, hen turkeys have dropped 2 to 3 cents per pound. Domestic rabbits are up 1 to 3 cents per pound. Lent has caused demand to taper off somewhat.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 18, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15--- The general trend in the San Francisco wholesale vegetable market the past week has been toward lower prices and heavier supplies. Some of the spring vegetables are coming to market in larger volume. Asparagus, for instance, is arriving in the market more rapidly than usual, probably because the season started late this year. Nevertheless, supplies are heavier and prices are nearing the moderate level.

The week's Best Buys are carrots, onions, and spinach, which has dropped considerably in price.

Celery has also dropped in price enough to make it a Fairly Good Buy, along with cabbage and potatoes.

Fair Buys include Florida snap beans, broccoli (especially the dry pack stock), cauliflower, peppers (considering season of year), and mushrooms.

Ranked among the high-priced items are artichokes, cucumbers, eggplant, rhubarb, lettuce, and tomatoes. Soft squash is beginning to come in from the Imperial Valley but is still expensive.

There is very little change in the fruit market. Watsonville Newtown apples are a little higher priced but still the Best Buy of the week.

Grapefruit (higher), limes, and pears are Fair Buys.

Large-size avocados and lemons are slightly lower but are still on the expensive side, as are oranges.

MORE

Despite rather slow trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market the past week, supplies of beef, lamb and veal have not accumulated. On pork, the supply has increased to become more near to being normal. Prices are little changed from a week ago. Some beef cuts have advanced $2.00 to $4.00 per hundredweight, and lamb and mutton carcasses have sold from unchanged to $1.00 higher per hundredweight. Generally, pork products have held unchanged in price, although fresh hams have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight. There has been very little demand for any class of smoked meat.

With stocks of all grades of butter fully ample for a rather slow demand in the San Francisco wholesale market, prices have dropped 1-cent since last week. Grades AA&A(1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 68 to 70 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is quoted to retailers at 66-1/2 to 68 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

Ample supplies of all grades of eggs have held unchanged in price from last week. Grade "A" Large eggs are still quoted to retailers at 50 to 52 cents per dozen in cartons, Mediums at 49 to 50 cents, and Smalls at 42 cents per dozen. Demand has been more active. For the week ended March 5, San Francisco's retail sales were 4 percent larger than for the previous week.

Poultry prices are little changed from last week. Broilers have dropped 1 to 2 cents per pound because supplies are heavy and demand is light. Other classes of dressed poultry are in ample supply, fair demand, and unchanged in price.

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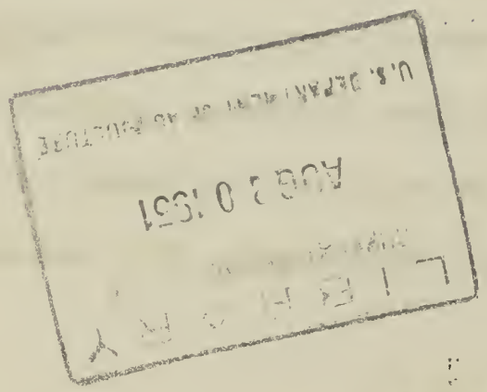
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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 25, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22 --- The trend of more plentiful supplies and lower prices has continued in the San Francisco wholesale vegetable market. Celery has dropped in price considerably to make it a Best Buy, along with carrots (lower), onions, and spinach (lower).

Asparagus leads the week's Fairly Good Buys as the result of rapidly increasing supplies and lower prices. Other Fairly Good Buys include broccoli at lower prices, cabbage, and potatoes.

In the Fair Buy class are snap beans and cauliflower.

Local field-grown rhubarb is coming to market. And prices have dropped on eggplant and lettuce.

Cucumbers and peppers remain high. Sweetpotatoes, tomatoes and Hubbard and banana squash are also selling at high prices.

In the fruit department, Watsonville Newtown apples are still the Best Buy.

Grapefruit and pears are Fair Buys at slightly higher prices.

Lemons and oranges are a shade higher this week, while avocados are slightly lower.

MORE

Generally, trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market has been slow the past week. As the result of a considerably slackened demand for beef, beef carcasses accumulated even though carcasses of less than 600 pounds were in light supply. Fresh veal and calf has been in ample supply, while fresh lamb and mutton has been in light supply and has varied considerably in quality and weight. Fresh pork products have been in fair demand, with supplies generally adequate. Prices are little changed from a week ago: hindquarters, rounds and loins of beef are $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight higher; Good, Commercial and Utility grades of veal are down mostly $2.00 per hundredweight; mutton is $1.00 to $2.00 higher per hundredweight; and pork spareribs are $1.00 to $2.00 lower per hundredweight.

A continued increase in butter production has resulted in heavier supplies of top grades in the San Francisco wholesale market. Quotations to retailers are unchanged from a week ago, with Grades AA&A(1st Quality) quoted at 68 to 70 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints, and Grade B(2nd Quality) quoted at 66½ to 68 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Demand has continued rather slow.

A good demand for Grade "A" Large eggs has held prices unchanged on that grade at 51 to 52 cents per dozen, while Grade "A" Mediums have been in slow demand and have dropped 1-cent per dozen to a quotation of 48 to 49 cents per dozen. Grade "A" Smalls are down 3 cents from last week at 39 cents per dozen. Supplies of all grades are fully ample for all needs.

Demand has improved slightly in the wholesale dressed poultry market. And prices have advanced 1-cent per pound on broilers, fryers, roasters, and heavy Leghorn hens. Young hen turkeys are 3 cents per pound lower than last week. All other classes are unchanged in price. Supplies are somewhat lighter.

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